(i) The delay was due to the delay in getting replies from the persons proposed for nomination.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—May I know the date on which the election of the Panchayat members took place in the month of Vrischigam ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—7th of Vrischigam.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—What was the nomination date ? When was it published in the Gazette, or in which issue of the Gazette ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Gazette dated 3rd Mithunam.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Is it after the receipt of the interpellation from me, Sir?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It was sent to the Gazette long before that interpellation came in.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Were there any scarcity of persons to serve at least in the Panchayat ? It took more than 8 months, and the reasons stated are that the delay was due to the replies from persons proposed for nominations.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—A couple of reminders were sent and a special messenger was also sent to get a reply.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—To one and the same man or to others? If one is not willing, and does not respond to the call, why were not others tried ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Same man.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Why do you stick to the same man ? Is there scarcity of men ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Unless we get a reply, we cannot propose another.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Not responding means that he does not like the work. If members are willing, they might be running after the Panchayat Superintendent, and if they are not willing to give a reply, the presumption is that they are not willing.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The fact that the reply was not received does not mean that the member was not willing.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—For that reply, you took 8 months. On this ground, his name may be omitted. Why did not you try others also ? Even though you have approached him, he did not reply, and so you may veto it, and send for some other man. It is 8 months now.

Research works in the Agricultural Department.

12. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what steps were taken to provide laboratories for research works in the Agricultural Department;

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(2) is it a fact that the Specialists in the Chemistry, Mycology and Entomology are thrown out of their own fields for want of well and properly fitted laboratories;

(3) if the answer is in the affirmative (1) whether the Government contemplate to provide laboratories for the department (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, when?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(1) The matter was under correspondence. Steps are being taken to provide a laboratory.

(2) No. Scientific work is not neglected though adequate facilities for research are wanting.

(3) In view of the answer to (1) above no reply is necessary.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The provision for the building is in the budget. How long was it under correspondence? May I know when the correspondence first began and with whom?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—The matter has been under the consideration of the Government for some time.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The question of constructing a Laboratory and equipping it was under consideration of the Government for some time. Am I to understand that the correspondence was between the Government and yourself?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—How long did it take place?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Seven or eight years.

The Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Amendment Bill.

13. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—(a) whether a Bill by the name of the 'Cochin Hindu Religious Institutions Amendment Bill' was submitted for Diwan's sanction in 1101 by the Member for Land-holders;

(b) what was the reply given by the Diwan on 18th August 1926 for the above request for sanction;

(c) (1) was there any fresh letter on 11th Chingam 1102 about this matter;

(2) if so, what was the letter;

(3) why was sanction ultimately refused?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Government do not propose to publish the correspondence. (Vide answer to question No. 8 of the legislative session of 1103).

(c) (1) Yes.

(2) and (3) Vide answer to (b).

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